

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Abandoned)

11. (Currently Amended) An endodontic device for detecting moisture within a root canal, comprising:

an endodontic cone formed of a water absorptive material;
a pH changing material applied to the water absorptive material; and
a pH sensitive color changing indicator applied to the water absorptive material so as to not initially react with the pH changing material;

wherein the endodontic device changes color when moistened with water[[,]] and wherein the pH changing material causes water contacting the endodontic cone to either become substantially more basic than neutral or substantially more acidic than neutral so as to enhance ~~enhances~~ a change in color of the endodontic device when the endodontic cone is moistened with water compared to a change in color of an endodontic device without the pH changing material.

12. (Currently Amended) An endodontic device as recited in claim 11, wherein the pH changing material ~~comprises~~ is at least one base selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal oxide, alkali metal hydroxide, alkali metal carbonate, alkaline earth metal oxide, or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

13. (Original) An endodontic device as recited in claim 12, wherein the pH changing material comprises at least one of CaO, KOH, and K₂CO₃.

14. (Original) An endodontic device as recited in claim 12, wherein the pH sensitive color changing indicator comprises phenolphthalein.

15. (Currently Amended) An endodontic device as recited in claim 11, wherein the pH changing material ~~comprises~~ is at least one citric acid.

Claims 16-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) A method of manufacturing an endodontic device for detecting moisture within a root canal, comprising the steps of:

- providing an endodontic cone comprising a water absorptive material;
- applying a pH changing solution that includes a pH changing material to the endodontic cone;
- drying the endodontic cone so as to be substantially free of moisture;
- applying an anhydrous pH sensitive indicator solution that includes a pH sensitive color changing indicator and an anhydrous volatile solvent to the endodontic cone;
- drying the endodontic cone so as to be substantially dry.

26. (Original) A method of manufacturing a device as recited in claim 25, wherein the endodontic cone is dried using an oven.

27. (Original) A method of manufacturing a device as recited in claim 25, wherein the pH changing material is present in the pH changing solution in an amount between about 0.01% and about 0.5% by weight.

28. (Original) A method of manufacturing a device as recited in claim 25, wherein the pH sensitive color changing indicator is present in the anhydrous pH sensitive indicator solution in an amount between about 0.01% and about 0.5%.

29. (Original) A method of manufacturing a device as recited in claim 25, wherein the anhydrous volatile solvent comprises one of isopropanol and ethanol.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of using a device for detecting moisture within a root canal, comprising the steps of:

inserting an endodontic device ~~as recited in claim 11~~ within a root canal of a patient's tooth, the endodontic device comprising:

an endodontic cone formed of a water absorptive material;

a pH changing material applied to the water absorptive material; and

a pH sensitive color changing indicator applied to the water absorptive material;

wherein the endodontic device changes color when moistened with water,

wherein the pH changing material enhances a change in color of the endodontic device when the endodontic cone is moistened with water compared

to a change in color of an endodontic device without the pH changing material;

and

withdrawing the device and observing whether the chemical indicator has changed color, indicating the presence of moisture within the root canal.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) An endodontic device as recited in claim 15, wherein the at least one acid comprises citric acid.

35. (New) An endodontic device as recited in claim 11, wherein the pH changing material is either strongly basic or strongly acidic when moistened with water.

36. (New) An endodontic device for detecting moisture within a root canal, comprising:

- an endodontic cone formed of a water absorptive material;
- a pH changing material consisting of at least one base applied to the water absorptive material; and
- a pH sensitive color changing indicator applied to the water absorptive material; wherein the endodontic device changes color when moistened with water, wherein the base causes moisture contacting the endodontic cone to become significantly more basic than neutral in order to enhance a change in color of the endodontic device when the endodontic cone is moistened with water compared to a change in color of an endodontic device without the base.

37. (New) An endodontic device as recited in claim 36, wherein the base causes moisture contacting the endodontic cone to become strongly basic.

38. (New) An endodontic device for detecting moisture within a root canal, comprising:

- an endodontic cone formed of a water absorptive material;
- a pH changing material consisting of at least one acid applied to the water absorptive material; and
- a pH sensitive color changing indicator applied to the water absorptive material; wherein the endodontic device changes color when moistened with water, wherein the acid causes moisture contacting the endodontic cone to become substantially more acidic than neutral in order to enhance a change in color of the endodontic device when the endodontic cone is moistened with water compared to a change in color of an endodontic device without the acid.

39. (New) An endodontic device as recited in claim 38, wherein the base causes moisture contacting the endodontic cone to become strongly acidic.